

December 31, 2001

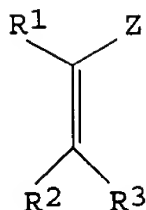
*Bill*  
the non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains are prepared by mixing and reacting a silver ion-containing solution, the solvent of which being water or a mixture of water and an organic solvent, with a solution of a fatty acid alkali metal salt, the solvent of which being water, an organic solvent, or a mixture of water and an organic solvent, in a closed mixing means.

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*As*  
3. (Amended) The thermally processed image forming material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive fatty silver salt grains are prepared by cooling a reaction mixture obtained after the reaction proceeded within the closed mixing means.

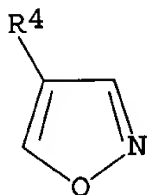
*Sub B2*  
4. (Amended) A thermally processed image forming material containing elsewhere on a support a reducing agent, a binder and non-photosensitive fatty silver salt grains characterized in that the non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains are prepared by micro-dispersing the reaction mixture at an operating pressure of 1,800 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> or above using a ultrahigh pressure dispersion apparatus, the nucleation aid being at least any one of a compound selected from the group consisting of a substituted alkene derivative expressed by the general formula (1) below, a substituted isooxazole derivative expressed by the general formula (2) below, and an acetal derivative expressed by the general formula (3) below:

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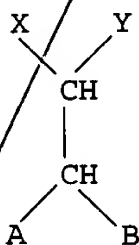
(1)

(where,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or substituent;  $Z$  represents an electron attracting group or silyl group; and,  $R^1$  and  $Z$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$ ,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , or  $R^3$  and  $Z$  may individually bind with each other to form a cyclic structure),



(2)

(where,  $R^4$  represents a substituent), and



(3)

(where,  $X$  and  $Y$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or substituent;  $A$  and  $B$  independently represent alkoxy group, alkylthio group, alkylamino group, aryloxy group, arylthio group, anilino group, heterocyclic oxy group, heterocyclic thio group or

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heterocyclic amino group, and, X and Y, or A and B may individually bind with each other to form a cyclic structure).

5. (Amended) A thermally processed image forming material containing elsewhere on a support a reducing agent, a binder and non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains characterized in that the non-photosensitive fatty acid silver salt grains are prepared by (1) mixing and reacting a silver ion-containing solution, the solvent of which being water or a mixture of water and an organic solvent, with a solution of a fatty acid alkali metal salt, the solvent of which being water, an organic solvent, or a mixture of water and an organic solvent, in a closed mixing means, and then (2) micro-dispersing the reaction mixture at an operating pressure of 1,800 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> or above using a ultrahigh pressure dispersion apparatus.--